



Tale Feathers

TRY THIS, APRIL 9: Bring friends and family to St. Louis Audubon's Lunch & Annual Meeting

This year Tom Day and Karen Goellner, our committee in charge of arranging our Annual Dinner, decided to try a few changes. First, because the latter part of April is a very busy time for many people, we have moved the event to earlier in the month, April 9. Second, instead of a formal evening dinner, *Super Smokers* is catering our lunch on Sunday afternoon, followed by a speaker and presentation of awards. Join us on April 9. We've made the event more family friendly as well—only \$10/person.

Our Speaker

Our guest speaker, Michael Macek, is Curator of Birds at the world-famous St. Louis Zoo. Mike's bird studies and survival programs span the world—Australia, Guam, Indonesia, Trinidad, Britain, Madagascar, and Russia. Come get to know Mike, a bird enthusiast and one of St. Louis' stars.

Directions

The Powder Valley Nature Center is located at 11715 Cragwold Road in southern Kirkwood, near the I-44/I-270 intersection. From Big Bend Blvd. in Kirkwood, take Geyer Rd. south to Cragwold, just before Geyer crosses over I-44. Alternatively, from Watson Rd. in Sunset Hills, go north on Geyer, cross over I-44, and turn left onto Cragwold. Follow Cragwold to the entrance to Powder Valley, just before Cragwold crosses over I-270.

Events

Come early and hike the trails and visit the exhibits in the Nature Center. Our schedule of events is as follows:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 12:30 pm | Hike the trails & visit the exhibits.
Or, come earlier. |
| 1:15 pm | Catered lunch in the Nature Center. |
| 2:30 pm | Audubon meeting, our speaker, and awards presentation. |

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 5.

OR, CALL (314) 389-3969.

Lunch Reservation Form

 persons for lunch x \$10.00 = \$

Name

Phone Zip code

St. Louis *Audubon Society*

Act quickly; reservation deadline is April 5.



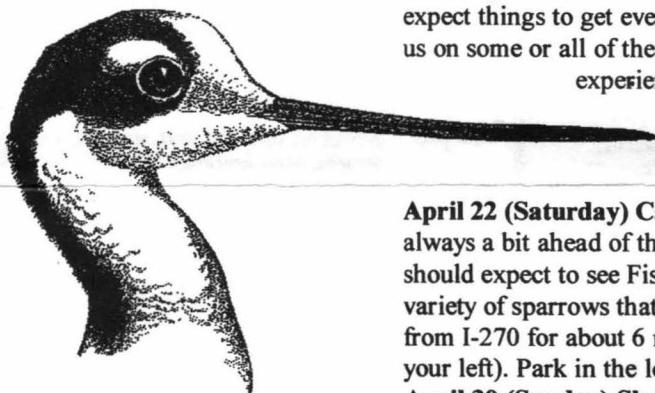
Mail your check payable to St. Louis Audubon Society to:

Mary Lou Miller
3927 Lucas & Hunt Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121.
Or, call (314) 389-3969.



Birdbath Tales

This issue we have so many birdbath and other bird tales that they just won't fit on one page. Please look for **Birdbath Tales** headlines throughout the newsletter. And, consider submitting your own tale for the June issue of *Tale Feathers*.



Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published bi-monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society (SLAS). Messenger Printing of Kirkwood prints approximately 3,000 copies of each issue on recycled paper using soy ink.

The deadline for the June issue is May 15. Please send photos, articles, events, and letters to Ellen McCallie, Newsletter Editor.

e-mail
stltalefeathers@yahoo.com
phone 314/966-4131
post 705 W. Essex Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Birding

with St. Louis Audubon

By Jim Malone

This wonderful winter weather brought people outside. These mild days were great for birds too, but it meant that some stayed further north than they normally would. For us, this meant that the assortment of gulls and waterfowl was rather meager until late January to February, when things really filled in. Not only did Bald Eagles return in force to Riverlands and other common haunts along the Mississippi, but waves of ducks and geese came in late, but in good numbers.

During this time, trips to Riverlands and Horseshoe Lake gave us great views of diving ducks like Canvasback, Scaup, Redhead, Bufflehead, Ruddy, and even a very close Long-tailed (aka Oldsquaw) Duck at Horseshoe Lake. Dabbling ducks were also well represented with lots of Pintails, Wigeons, Gadwalls, Mallards, and a surprising number of Black Ducks. Some other outstanding sightings on January to early March birding trips included a Long-eared Owl, hundreds of American White Pelicans, and a fair number of Turkey Vultures near Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge in March. This February, we saw Canada, Snow (white and blue phased), Ross's, and White-fronted geese together with many duck species in a large puddle on a farm near Horseshoe Lake in Southern Illinois.

Basically, we have had some great trips (seeing 64 different species on the last one), and expect things to get even better with spring migration right at the door. Come on out and join us on some or all of the following trips! We always give extra help to those with less experience, yet keep things moving along enough to keep people's interest.

Pick a trip (or four) and join us.

April 7-8 Prairie Chicken Trip to Central Missouri. This birding trip is filled, and promises to be as much fun as last year!

April 22 (Saturday) Castlewood State Park, South St. Louis County. Castlewood is always a bit ahead of the rest of the St. Louis area when it comes to spring migration. We should expect to see Fish Crows, early warblers, some shorebirds along the river, and a variety of sparrows that have not gone north yet to breed. To get there, take Big Bend west from I-270 for about 6 miles; turn left on Ries Road and follow Ries to the park entrance (on your left). Park in the lot just before the creek.

April 30 (Sunday) Shaw Arboretum, Grays Summit, MO. The Arboretum is always a great place to bird. At this time of year there should be a good selection of warblers, flycatchers, Red-shouldered Hawks, and other goodies to keep things interesting. Bring your lunch, as we will stay well into the afternoon. To get there, take I-44 West from I-270 to the Gray Summit exit (#253). Turn left across the interstate. Go about 100 yards to the Arboretum entrance on your left. Admission is free to Missouri Botanical Garden members. There is a \$3 fee for all others.

May 7 (Sunday) Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, MO. Tower Grove is one of the best vantage points from which to view the migration of warblers and other passersines in the St. Louis area with its big trees and different habitats. To get there, take Kingshighway South from I-44; turn left at Magnolia and go to the center of the park; turn right at the light and keep bearing right until you arrive at the North west corner of the park. We will meet at the Gaddy Bird Garden.

May 14 (Sunday) Forest Park, St. Louis, MO. This is always one of the most popular walks of the year, and why not! Colorful warblers and vireos, thrushes, tanagers, and orioles abound, and are easy to see at the edges of the woods. To get to this walk, go to Forest Park, and park on the street behind the Art Museum. We meet at the wood's edge behind the museum.

May 25-28 (Thursday-Sunday) Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms CA, central Kansas. For details of this great trip, see the article in this issue of *Tale Feathers*. This has been an unbelievable trip for the last two years at this time. Don't miss out on the fun! Reserve your spot on this trip any time after April 1, by calling Jim Malone at (636) 536-1119, or e-mail me at stlaud@inlink.com.

More Birding More Birding More Birding

Quivira/Cheyenne Bottoms May 25-28

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms Conservation area in central Kansas is close to birding nirvana. We will be visiting these two prime birding locations on May 25-28, where many of the birds most coveted in St. Louis (Wilson's Phalarope, Upland Sandpiper, Least Tern, Great-tailed Grackle, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Black Rail and a host of others) are regular breeders. In addition, there are loads of great migrants around to keep things moving.

Audubon member, Dency Kahn, shares thoughts about last year's trip.

I was one of the lucky few who went to Great Bend, Kansas last year and am hoping to go again. I've described the experience to others as thinking I had died and gone to Heaven. I hoped to see some new birds; most of my birding has been in the East or limited to what I could see from home or car. I saw so many that I was afraid of not writing them down fast enough to remember. And quality looks! That little Least Bittern was sitting just the way he is pictured in the book, with his feet braced between two reeds, and then he flew to give us the flight pattern also. We saw three American Bitterns, again with both the frozen neck up and flight views. There were Eared and Western Grebes (I'm working from memory and my life list), White-faced Ibis, and Mississippi Kites.

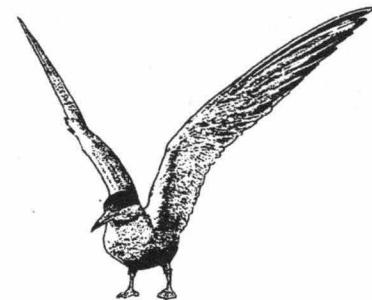
Previously, I had thought one only saw shorebirds at the shore, meaning by the ocean; in central Kansas, however, we saw Snowy Plover, White-rumped Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitchers. Also Wilson's Phalarope, Avocets, and Black-necked Stilts. We saw Upland Sandpipers four or five times; the first was by the prairie dog village along with three Burrowing Owls. There were Black, Least, and Forster's Terns. I think it was near where the Black Terns were skimming the water that we saw a tree with five kinds of swallows perching between flights. The Bobolinks were in the marsh with the first bittern. That was where we played the taped call of the Black Rail and lured one to within six feet of us. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were all over the place. All three Teal were there, the Cinnamon was a first for me. There was a Common Moorhen. The Barn Owl didn't stick his head out of the nesting box for me (I've seen one since), but there were three Great Horned Owls. Other land birds included Dickcissel and a Grasshopper Sparrow. There were more, but I didn't keep the checklist. I also can't tell you which we saw at Quivira and which at Cheyenne Bottoms. My favorite bird: the Upland Sandpiper.

We will be accepting reservations for this trip beginning April 1. If you think this sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact Jim Malone at (636) 536-1119 or by e-mail at stlaud@inlink.com.

More Birding More Birding More Birding

A Super Smokers Lunch at Audubon's Annual Meeting.

**Make reservation by April 5.
See page 1 for details.**



Birdbath Tales

By Ed Ortley

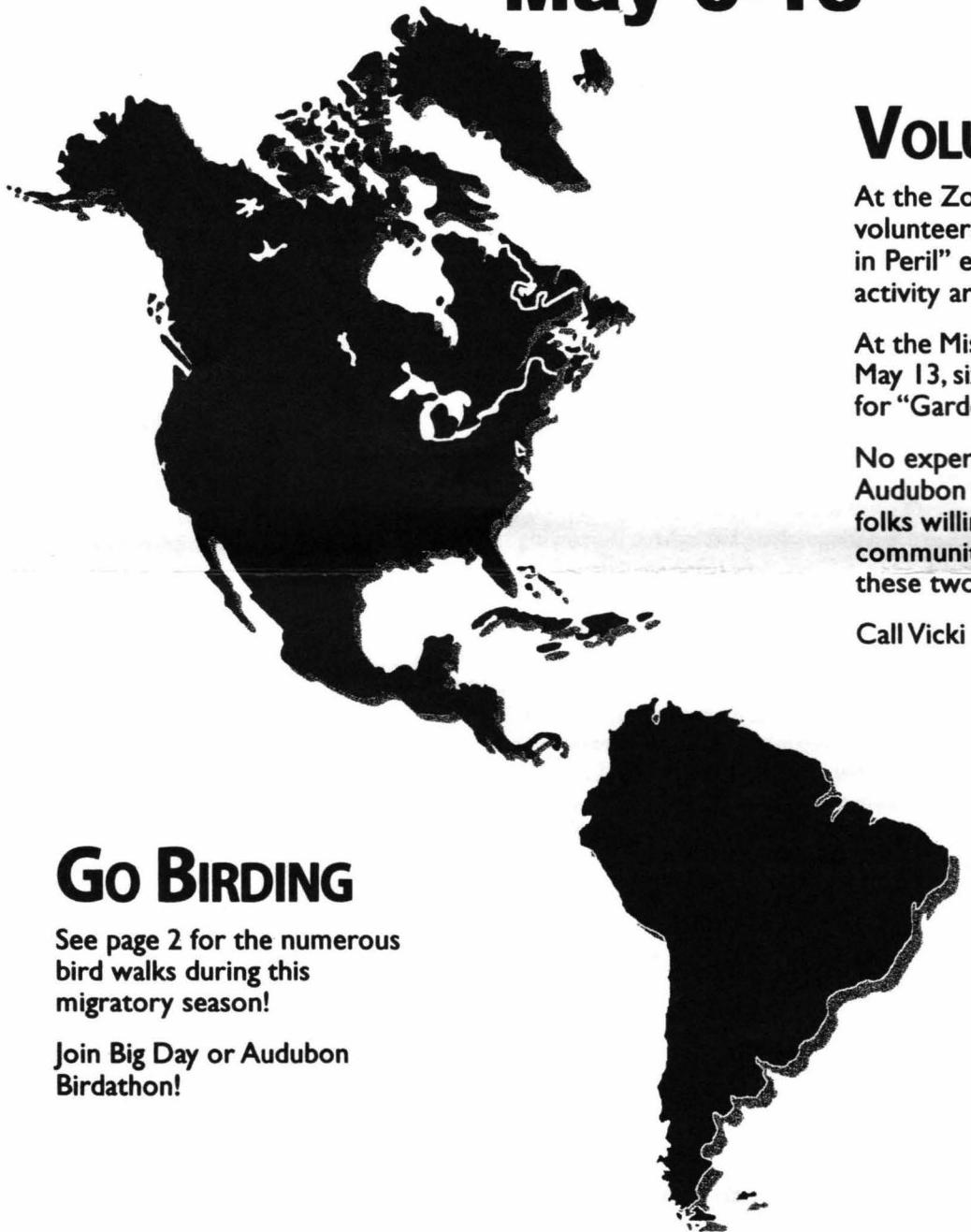
It is hard to beat Paul Bauer's story about a thirsty bird. However, I did have an experience in 1954 that parallels his tale. The summer of 1954 was one of extreme heat and drought and I was directing a children's summer camp in Pacific, MO. Because of the heat, we scheduled extra swimming sessions for the boys and girls. On a particularly hot afternoon I returned early from swimming to prepare for the before-supper activities. Being thirsty, I went to an outdoor faucet, turned it on, and, using my hand as a cup, drank handfuls of cool well water. When I looked up, I saw a Wood Thrush within ten feet of me. I thought this was a bit strange since I had never seen these birds come close to the camp activity area. Then the bird hopped a few feet closer. It obviously was not afraid to approach me. I wondered if it was perhaps thirsty since there were no other sources of water nearby. I turned the faucet, and let the water splash onto the pile of rocks below. Droplets of water splashed everywhere.

The thrush quickly hopped to the rock area, which was only a foot away from my feet, and sipped drops and rivulets of water. When apparently satiated, the bird flew away as I stood there dumbfounded at having experienced such an event.

Do you have an unusual birdbath or bird feeder tale or photo? Share it with us. Send your submissions to Tale Feathers.

International Migratory

May 6-13



Go BIRDING

See page 2 for the numerous
bird walks during this
migratory season!

Join Big Day or Audubon
Birdathon!

VOLUNTEER

At the Zoo, May 6, we need fifteen
volunteers to help us with "Birds
in Peril" education tables and
activity areas.

At the Missouri Botanical Garden,
May 13, six volunteers are needed
for "Gardening for the Birds."

No experience necessary. St. Louis
Audubon is in desperate need of
folks willing to assist with our
community outreach efforts on
these two days.

Call Vicki Flier at (314) 968-9166.

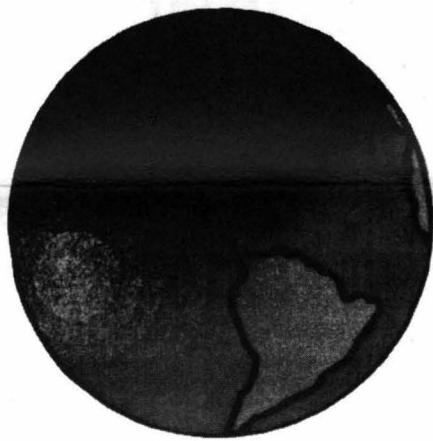
Bird Week

Big Day, May 13

Big Day, usually scheduled for the second Saturday in May, will be on May 13 this year, during International Migratory Bird Week and near the expected peak of the spring migration. Experienced birders and beginners alike enjoy devoting this day to observing as many different species as possible. Some people like to participate as a member of a team, while many others prefer to see what they can accomplish on their own.

In any case, serious birders will be up and in the field before sunrise to hear owls and be there to hear the early morning chorus of warblers and other songbirds. Later in the day there will be time to locate mud flats for shorebirds and habitat for waterfowl. Then as the sun goes down, listen to the "peenting" of Woodcocks, and the calls of nighthawks, owls, Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows. This is the time to test your knowledge of birds and their habitat.

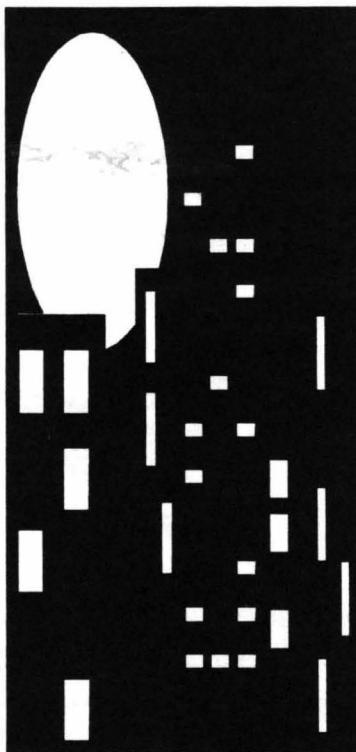
An informal goal is to see or hear 100 species! Big Day is just one of many ways to celebrate International Migratory Bird Week.



Audubon Birdathon

A Birdathon is a uniquely Audubon event. Held during the spring migration, a birdathon participant or team spends a day in the field observing as many species as possible. Before beginning their count, they contact friends and acquaintances asking each to sponsor them by pledging a certain amount of money, from, say, 10 cents to one dollar, for each species that is observed in one day. The money goes to St. Louis Audubon to fund programs in conservation and education.

All agree that this is a fun way to make the spring migration help fund activities that will help to keep our metropolitan area green. We still need a coordinator for this activity, but if you can participate as a birder or can make a pledge to sponsor someone else, please call Jim Holsen at (314) 822-0410.



Silhouettes

Prevent "Sheet Glass" Injuries

Birds are often unable to recognize sheet glass, i.e. windows and glass doors, as barriers. At least 100 million to a billion birds are killed each year in the United States alone by striking glass of various sizes in all types of human-built structures, during every season. A simple solution is to place hawk silhouettes on sheet glass.

Silhouettes can be purchased locally or made by hand and glued to glass.

What's the FLAP?

(Fatal Light Awareness Program)

by Lynne Breakstone

With all the hazards and difficulties facing migratory birds, it's somewhat heartening to find out about one which is preventable with a minimum amount of effort. At night during spring and fall migrations, many birds rely in part on the positions of the moon and the constellations to guide them. But while flying across cities, particularly when it's overcast, they are often drawn to lights shining from skyscrapers. Many of the birds slam into windows and die. Others, dazed or unconscious, drop to the city pavement below—only to be eaten by scavengers or swept up by street cleaners or maintenance people before the first office workers arrive. Every year at least 100 million birds die after colliding with tall buildings or other manmade structures. Many of these casualties are species in long-term decline, with some already designated as threatened. The problem has been severe enough to spawn FLAP, the Fatal Light Awareness Program. This Toronto-based program, in conjunction with the World Wildlife Fund, enlists volunteers to keep records on injured birds, rescue and release when possible, and advise office-building managers on low-tech solutions.

Does St. Louis contribute to this problem? We don't yet know. A few members of Audubon, along with equally concerned members of WGNSS, plan to conduct an informal study during the peak migration season this spring to ascertain if our evening-lighted tall buildings (and perhaps towers also) take a heavy toll on migrating birds. We are requesting volunteers for different aspects of this task: contacting building managers/owners, urging your own building manager to cooperate, and looking around the bases of tall downtown buildings at daybreak for injured/dead birds. Please contact Lynne Breakstone at (314) 726-4772 if you would be willing to participate. (Thanks to Karen Meyer for her help last year.)

Birdbath Tales

A Sanibel Adventure

by Lynne Breakstone

In January, during a vacation to Sanibel Island, FL, I witnessed an amusing egret event: a Great Egret was on the beach right outside of our condo (not an everyday occurrence) and was planning to eat a roundish, flat fish about 6" in diameter. Because the egret's throat is narrow, its attempts to swallow the fish whole met with no success. It tried four or five times to gulp the fish down, but its throat wouldn't open up wide enough. Watching the drama with great interest was a gull — staying a respectful distance away and waiting patiently. Every so often the gull would advance toward the egret by a few steps and the egret would use body language to say "back off". Finally, after the egret had tried about 18-20 times to swallow the fish, it gave up and walked away. The patient gull moved in and with its hooked bill proceeded to pick at the round fish and have it for lunch in little pieces.

Is there a moral here somewhere?

Do you have an unusual birdbath or bird feeder tale or photo? Share it with us. Send your submissions to Tale Feathers.



Volunteers Needed

Earth Day, April 22

International Migratory Bird Week , May 6-13

Call Vicki Flier at (314) 968-9166.



Spring Birding Festival

Powder Valley Nature Center

Tuesday, April 18

7-8:30pm



Join us and share

- The stunning beauty of tiny migrant song birds,
- A superb video, providing close-up views and sounds, and
- Illustrations of the best nearby locations, plus handouts.

Reservations begin April 4.

Call (314) 301-1500.



Notes from the Editor

Birdbath Tales, what a success! Paul Bauer really got us going with his story in the December issue of *Tale Feathers*. each month, I now look forward to other members' stories—and they just keep coming. This month we have three! No, they are not all about birdbaths, but they all share our love for observing birds and their antics. In addition to the articles highlighted this month, Helen Anderson called in to share that grackles in her yard were deafening; she thought chainsaws were at work outside her window.

It is through observation that we also note possible perils for birds. (See Lynne Breakstone's FLAP article as well as sheet glass solutions above it.)

I also want to encourage you to join Vicki Flier, Doyle Banks, and Pat McCormick as volunteers for International Migratory Bird Week activities (May 6-13) as well as for Earth Day celebrations (April 22). The time commitment is minimal, but the impact is substantial. Plus, the education committee is just plain fun.

Finally, I want to mention this month's annual meeting, a lunch event at Powder Valley Nature Center. As a new St. Louis Audubon Society member, "meeting" sounds like a funny name for this event, especially when good food, a great speaker, and presenting awards to friends of Audubon are the foci. I am particularly interested as Mike Macek is speaking. I enjoy listening to and getting to know St. Louis community members who are having a worldwide impact. It is encouraging and reinforces my commitment to St. Louis and St. Louisans.

Plus, as the end of my first year on the Board approaches, I am still meeting St. Louis Audubon Society members. Rarely a week passes without meeting someone new and figuring out we are both Audubon members. Please come April 9 and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Ellen McCallie

Tale Feathers Editor



Rookery Threatened

It has come to the attention of St. Louis Audubon that a heron rookery in Alorton/Centreville, IL is currently threatened by Union Pacific rail car facility expansion. Consider clipping this letter and sending it in.

April 1, 2000

Colonel Michael R. Morrow
District Commander, St. Louis District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1222 Spruce St.
St. Louis, Mo 63103-2833

RE: Union Pacific RR facility in Centreville/Alorton, IL

Dear Colonel Morrow:

It has come to my attention that Union Pacific Railroad is proposing a car handling facility on land in Centreville/Alorton, IL, which is just 1000 feet north of the largest heron and egret nesting colony in the St. Louis Metro Area.

Every year thousands of birds, including Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Yellow-crowned Night Heron nest at this rookery. These species are categorized as threatened or endangered in Illinois and Missouri. Other Illinois threatened and endangered species that have occurred in the surrounding areas include King Rail, Common Moorhen, Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, and occasionally Yellow-headed Blackbird.

I strongly urge you to NOT issue a permit to Union Pacific's consultant on this project, Zambrana Engineering. The Corps of Engineers has made great strides in the restoration and protection of wetland areas which are immensely vital habitats to nesting and migratory species. We urge you to continue the progress that has been previously demonstrated. Please realize the ecological significance of this wetland area and decline any permit that would threaten this critical breeding habitat.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Form

Audubon is a membership organization dedicated to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Our members are the source of our volunteer strength and the foundation of our financial support. By becoming a member, you will receive National Audubon Society's magazine as well as the St. Louis Audubon Society newsletter, *Tale Feathers*.

Membership category desired:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory/\$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/\$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Citizen/\$21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Citizen Family/\$23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/\$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining/\$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting/\$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (____) |

Send a check made out to
National Audubon Society to:
419 E. Argonne Drive
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

N01
7XCH

Over 140 high capacity chip mills are devastating the hardwood forests of the southeastern states, chipping away at our forests to create the wood pulp we demand for paper products and to meet the export market. When two high capacity chip mills began operating in Missouri a couple of years ago, the Missouri Audubon Council made the regulation of these chip mills its highest priority. The chipmills' voracious appetites for feedstock promotes clear-cutting, forest fragmentation, and loss of wildlife habitat.

Governor's Advisory Committee on Chip Mills Appointed

In early 1999, Governor Carnahan, responding to this threat, appointed his Governor's Advisory Committee on Chip Mills. As the Committee was winding up its inquiry and preparing to present its final report it became known that the staff of the Missouri Department of Conservation

the Shawnee and other places. (Continue reading for further explanation.)

The Department's Draft Report notes that "large tracts of contiguous forest are important for many of the interior forest bird species. The Lower Ozarks contain the largest block of continuous forests in the state. There are 102 tracts greater than 2,000 acres in size, with over 100,000 acres in the nine county region."

Ozarks are Critical to Survival of Many of Our Songbirds

The report then notes that "The Missouri Ozarks is recognized as an important production area for forest neotropical migratory birds. Many species of high priority forest birds have centers of abundance in this region. For instance, Breeding Bird Survey data indicate that this physiographic area supports 25% of the world's breeding Whip-poor-wills, 17% of Kentucky Warblers, 15% of Summer Tanagers, 14% of Worm-eating Warblers, 13% of Chuck-will's-widows and 9% of Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Eastern Wood Pewees. These bird populations appear to be breeding at or above replacement level and may be sources of individuals that colonize other geographic

areas where reproductive rates of forest birds are below replacement level due to forest fragmentation."

The Ozarks are indeed important as a "source" for birds that disperse to neighboring states. How much poorer will we all be if we allow this habitat to be destroyed?

One of the lessons that we learn as birders is that most species require a specific habitat—go there and you are likely to find the bird, look elsewhere and you will not. True, many of our most common species are generalists. Backyard birds adapt to urban and forest-edge habitat and thrive, but the great majority of the birds that we enjoy observing require specific habitats; take away that habitat and the bird cannot survive. It has evolved to fit into a specific niche. We must preserve these niches if we want to continue to enjoy the diversity of bird life that we have today.

Cost/Benefit Analysis

The Draft Report of the Department of Conservation attempts to apply a cost/benefit analysis to the presence of chip mills in our Ozark Mountains and concludes that chip mills may not be quite so bad—the cost is not much more than the benefits. But how does one really quantify in dollars the value of the neotropical songbirds—the birds that give rise

had earlier prepared its own report, the Draft Report on the Chip Mill Issue, which was submitted to the Director, Jerry Conley, in December 1998.

The Department's Draft Report detailed the damage that would be done to Missouri's soils and rivers if loggers did not follow so-called Best Management Practices—and pointed out that for the most part loggers do not now practice BMPs, as they are called, and are not likely to do so in the future.

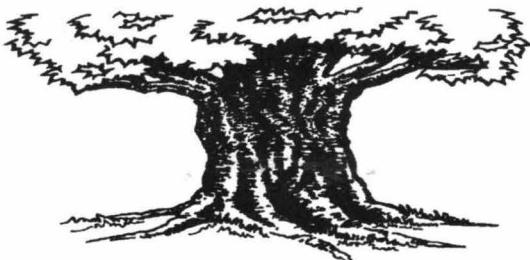
Biodiversity

One of the most interesting sections of the Draft Report was the section on biodiversity, written by David Urich of the Natural History Section. This section describes the natural biodiversity characteristic of the Lower Ozark Mountains most likely to be lost if extensive clear-cutting and poor logging practices are allowed to once-again devastate that region.

Some species of birds, including many of the neotropical migrants that breed in North America (and winter in Central and South America) require an extensive forest canopy to protect their nests from predators. Among such bird species are the Kentucky, Cerulean, and Worm-eating Warblers, the Wood Thrush, cuckoos, and tanagers, among many others. Forests in some neighboring states have become so fragmented with roads, power lines, pastures, etc., that these birds are unable to breed successfully. It is postulated, for instance, that many individuals of these species found in the Shawnee National Forest of Southern Illinois were not fledged there, but were fledged in the Ozarks and then dispersed to

to the "dawn chorus" on those early spring mornings. Silent Spring—we will be there again if we allow this habitat to be destroyed.

Instead of feeling helpless. Take action. It's not just tropical deforestation threatening bird species. Missouri forests are breeding grounds for tropical migrants. Let's protect them. Call or write the Governor's Advisory Committee on Chipmills.



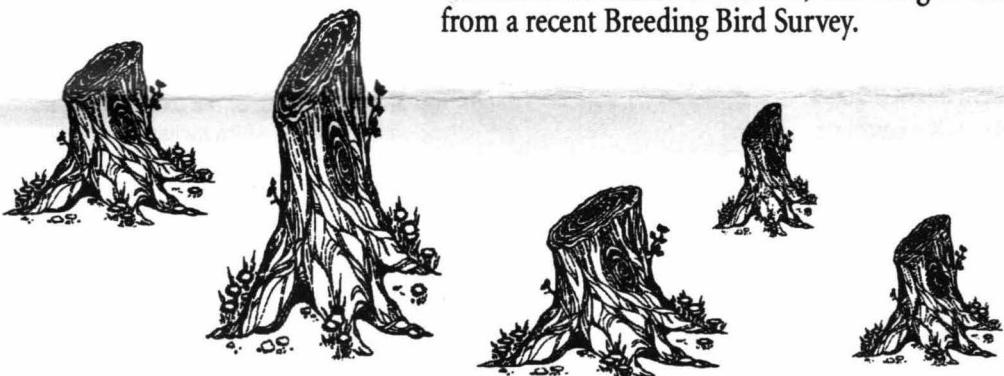
Birds at Stake in Missouri Ozarks

The Missouri Ozarks is recognized as an important production area for forest Neotropical migratory birds.

Did you know that

- 25% of Whip-poor-wills,
- 17% of Kentucky Warblers,
- 15% of Summer Tanagers,
- 14% of Worm-eating Warblers,
- 13% Chuck-will's-widows,
- 9% of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and
- 9% Eastern Wood-Pewees

breed in the Missouri Ozarks, according to data from a recent Breeding Bird Survey.



Get to know Powder Valley Nature Center

**Attend St. Louis Audubon's Annual "Meeting", April 9,
and
A Spring Birding Festival, April 18.**

A good place with great people.

Birds of the St. Louis Area: Where and When to Find Them

Written by members of Webster Groves Nature Study Society and St. Louis Audubon Society.

Revised edition, 1998, 202 pages, spiral bound is available at the Spring Birding Festival at Powder Valley Nature Center April 18, 7-8:30pm. Copies are also available at numerous birding stores, nature centers, bookshops, and museums throughout the St. Louis area, or call Paul Bauer at (314) 921-3972.

Birdbath Tales

Sparrows in love? by Dorothy Roth

The following is a true story of a pair of House Sparrows, which I enjoyed on my deck. The first day I was attracted to them by their calling back and forth. The second day, he showed her my bluebird house. She went in to look, but then flew away. Apparently, it was "too roomy". He called to her again, insisting she approve. She returned, looked in the house again, but would not move in. Never-the-less, he received her consent to mate. She liked him, but not his choice of a dwelling. Some time later I found small broken eggs on the deck.

Mr. Sparrow continued his business carrying grasses and fixing up the house. One week later he sat in the yard calling to her to no avail. Sadly, she left him for another. Though I expect him to still work on the bluebird house, building a nest, chirping, and calling, I doubt his status as a bachelor will change this year.

Do you have an unusual birdbath or birdfeeder tale or photo? Share it with us. Send your submissions to Tale Feathers.

Kaleidoscope of Color

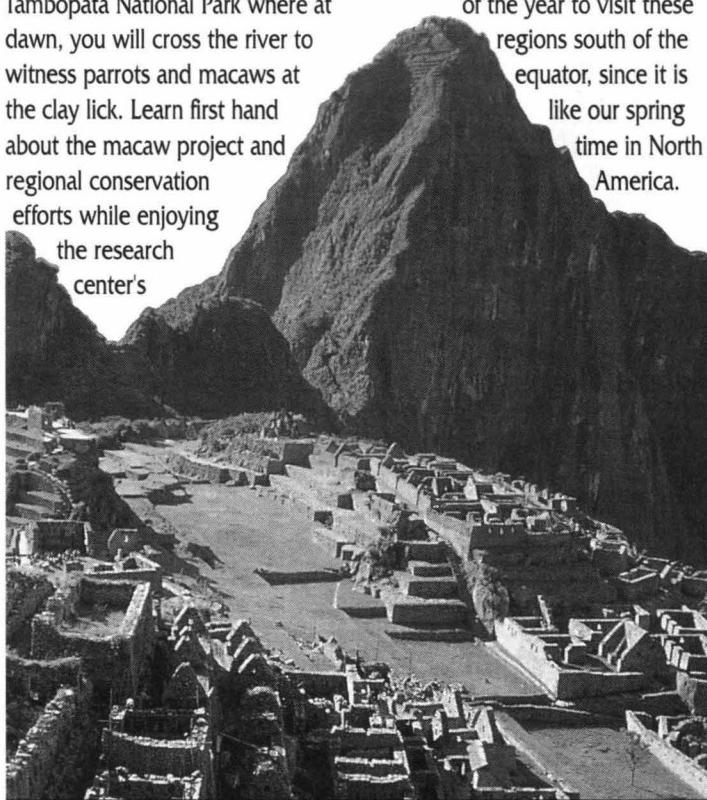
A Wildlife Expedition to Peru

Featuring Tambopata National Park
September 2000

Join Paul Bauer and the St. Louis Audubon Society and journey up the Amazon River by covered longboats to Posada Amazonas, a beautiful lodge nestled in the rainforest. Treks through the rainforest reveal a brilliant world of brightly-colored macaws, herons, kingfishers and cormorants. Using a stable pontoon boat we also quietly explore the forest edge along the shore of a backwater lagoon, where we can see the bizarre hoatzin, and watch a family of river otters at play. Continue to Tambopata National Park where at dawn, you will cross the river to witness parrots and macaws at the clay lick. Learn first hand about the macaw project and regional conservation efforts while enjoying

the research center's

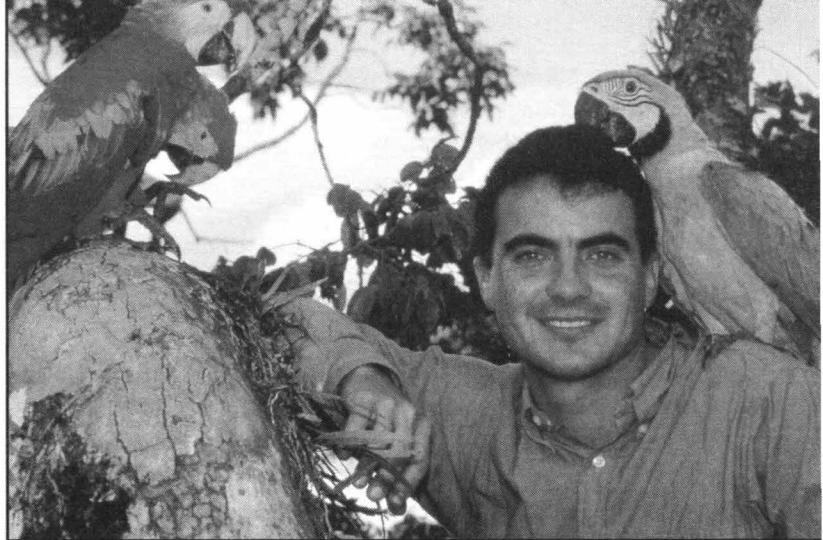
rustic charms. Tambopata in the rich Amazon River basin is reported to have the most diverse and bird-rich habitat. For one location they can boast the biggest birdlist in the world; a mindboggling 587 species and growing! In a typical visit we may expect 300 species of tropical birds. An optional extension is available to discover the archaeological splendor of Cuzco and Machu Picchu, the mountaintop sanctuary of the Incas, hidden from the world until 1911. September is the best time of the year to visit these regions south of the equator, since it is like our spring time in North America.



For itineraries or more information, call:

Paul Bauer at the St. Louis Audubon Society at (314) 921-3972

Photo Credit: Rainforest Expeditions, Gerry Ellis/ENP Images and Joe Lisanti



If you can't travel on this tour, but are looking for other exciting travel opportunities, why not join the St. Louis Audubon Society for one or more of the following wildlife adventures:

A World in One Country **South Africa**

November 2000

With Renowned Birder & Naturalist, Ken Newman

From cosmopolitan Cape Town to the wildlife of the award-winning Mala Mala Game Reserve, discover the beautiful diversity that is South Africa. Your safari begins in one of the world's most beautiful cities, graced with Dutch architecture and the geological signature of Cape Town: Table Mountain. Escorted by Ken Newman, author and artist of Newman's Birds of Southern Africa, experience at a most enjoyable pace some of the finest bird-watching sites in South Africa including Hluhluwe, Ndumo and the private reserve adjacent to



Kruger with almost 500 species of birds. Continue to Mala Mala, home to lion, leopard, elephant and the best team of safari guides on the planet. Because the reserve is private, you see nature as it was meant to be seen, far from the madding crowd. In 1999 our Audubon group had 316 species of birds and 32 species of mammals. Can we do better this year? Throughout, your accommodations are not just superior, but some of the best on the continent. An optional extension is also available to majestic Victoria Falls.

Classic Wildlife Safari to Tanzania

February 2001

Your safari begins in one of Tanzania's best kept secrets, Tarangire National Park, where you can watch as the elephant herds drink from the river, the only permanent water supply for miles around. Drive across the Great Rift Valley to Lake Manyara, a small park famous for its elusive tree-climbing lion. Descend 2,000 feet by Land Rover into Ngorongoro Crater, Africa's "Garden of Eden." Then onto the Serengeti in the midst of the annual migration when thunderous herds of wildebeest make a hazardous trek across the plains in search of fertile grasslands. The timing of the trip is ideal since it coincides with the calving season for the wildebeest, and also because many "European" birds are still wintering in Africa. Throughout the safari your accommodations are designed to



complement and integrate the beauty of their natural surroundings from the cottages nestled into the lush forest of the Ngorongoro Highlands on Gibb's Farm to the lodge perched on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater to your mobile tented camp in the Serengeti in proximity to the migration, to your tree lodge built atop ancient baobab trees in Tarangire. Our guide, James Ngethe, has over 30 years of experience with birds and mammals in East Africa.

Contact Us

St. Louis Audubon Society Officers and Board of Directors 1999-2000

SLAS Mailing address:

St. Louis Audubon Society
Message Center
419 E. Argonne Drive
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: 314-822-6595

SLAS Office:

St. Louis Audubon Society
325 N. Kirkwood Road
Suite 302 (Medical Arts Bldg.)
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(This office is not staffed.)

Officers

Jim Holsen President H&Fax-314-822-0410
Mary Lou Miller Treasurer H-314-389-3969 B-314-553-1429
Vicki Flier VP Education H-314-968-9166
Bill Groth, Jr. VP Conservation H-314-843-7440
Jerry Castillon VP Finance H-636-391-7586
Tom Day Secretary H-314-962-4064

Board Members

Bill Brandhorst	H-314-965-7269
Sara Lenoe	H-314-351-4565
Lynne Breakstone	H-314-726-4772
Ellen McCallie	H-314-966-4131
Joe Eades	H-314-966-3171
Missy Stern	H-314-862-0925
Karen Goellner	H-314-965-2265
Dale Ponce	H-636-394-6011
Dallas Cox	H-314-878-1080
Michael Grant	H-636-519-0208
Doyle Banks	H-636-227-5389
Anna Stevens	H-636-239-4486
Mike Arduser	H-314-968-8479
Christy Beckmann	H-314-822-2428
Susanne Greenlee	H-314-727-6044
John Solodar	H-314-862-5294
Jim Malone	H-636-536-1111
Pat McCormick	H-636-825-2842
	B-314-781-0900 X-248
	B-314-577-9461
	B-636-737-7708
	B-314-301-1500 X-2239
	B-314-434-1111
	B-314-234-3110
	B-636-394-2239
	B-636-737-6164
	B-636-441-4554,X-247
	B-314-694-3804
	B-314-968-1105
	B-636-737-7190

Committee Chairs

Ellen McCallie	Newsletter Editor	H-314-966-4131
Christy Beckmann	MO Environmental Fund	H-314-822-2428
Karen Turner	Rep to SLEEN, Resource Center Network	
Tom Day	Annual Dinner	H-314-962-4064
Jerry Miller	Investment Committee	H-314-389-3969
Mary Dueren	Audubon State Office	H-314-576-1473
Dave Tylka	AV Library & Strat. Plan	H-636-942-3142
Jerry Castillon	Operation Clean Stream	H-636-391-7586
Julie Leemann	Awards and Scholarships	H-314-962-2093
Janice Patton	Library	H-314-921-4875
Bill Brandhorst	Wildlife Mountings	H-314-965-7269
Jim Holsen	Membership	H-314-863-9346
LaVerne Koyn	Message Center Phone	H-314-878-9125
Paul Bauer	Birding	H-314-921-3972
Jim Malone	Birding	H-636-536-1119
Bill Salsgiver	Nominating Committee	H-636-225-1490
Vicki Flier	Bird Seed Sale	H-314-968-9166
Ellen McCallie	Bird Seed Sale	H-314-966-4131

Thank You Notes



Memorial Donations

In memory of Barbara "Bobbie" Johnson from
The Shipton Family

In memory of Bruce Bryan from
Jerry and Mary Lou Miller

In memory of Dolores Ulrich from
Jayne Pedrotti

Scott and Susan Pedrotti
*Friends and co-workers
of Lydia L. Lewis
in memory of her aunt*
Neighbors on Birkenhead
and Croydon

Other Donations

*Dr. Thomas Thale
Webster Groves Garden Club 5*

St. Louis Audubon Society

Annual Meeting

Super Smokers Lunch

**Make reservation by April 5.
See page 1 for details.**

St. Louis Audubon Society

St. Louis Audubon Society

419 E. Argonne Drive

Kirkwood, MO 63122

Ph: 314-822-6595

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/mo/SLAS/>

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 5128

Local, National, and International Birding Trips

See pages 2, 3, and 10.

Volunteer for International Migratory Bird Week

See page 4.

Annual Meeting

Make your reservation by April 5.
Form on front page!

A talk by Michael Macek,
Curator of Birds at the
St. Louis Zoo
**at St. Louis Audubon's
Annual Meeting
April 9
Powder Valley Nature Center**

See page 1 for more information.

Spring Birding Festival

at Powder Valley Nature
Center on April 18.

See page 6.

